

Election/Restrictions

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants hereby traverse the Examiner's arguments that Species I-VI are patentably distinct from one another. The embodiments recited in Claims 8-13, 21-26, and 37-42 are each examples of absorbent articles that include the fastening system of the invention. Figs. 8-13, submitted herewith, illustrate the fastening system of the invention in combination with each of the embodiments recited in Claims 8-13, 21-26, and 37-42. As can be seen in the drawings, the fastening system itself remains substantially the same in each of the embodiments shown in Figs. 8-13. By traversing the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully request the each of Claims 1-42 be examined.

Amendment to the Specification

Applicants have amended the title of the invention to be more descriptive of the invention. Applicants have amended the brief description of the drawings to include brief descriptions of each of the new Figs. 8-13, submitted herewith. Applicants have amended the detailed description of the presently preferred embodiments to include references to each of the new Figs. 8-13, submitted herewith. A marked-up version of each of the amended sections of the specification is included at the end of this document. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

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Drawings

Applicants are submitting Figs. 8-13 herewith for inclusion in the present application to illustrate the embodiments of the invention recited in Claims 8-13, 21-26, and 37-42.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that this Response and Preliminary Amendment are fully responsive to the Restriction Requirement. If the Examiner feels that any issues remain, then Applicants' undersigned attorney would like to discuss the case with the Examiner. The undersigned can be reached at (847) 490-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

At page 1, line 7:

[SLIDING] HOOK AND LOOP INSERTION FASTENING SYSTEM

At page 2, line 1:

[SLIDING] HOOK AND LOOP INSERTION FASTENING SYSTEM

At page 3, line 18 - page 4, line 10:

Fig. 1 is a front view of a fastening system including a male component and a female component prior to engagement;

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of the fastening system taken along line 1-1 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of another embodiment of the fastening system taken along line 1-1 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view of yet another embodiment of the fastening system taken along line 1-1 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view of still another embodiment of the fastening system taken along line 1-1 in Fig. 1;

Fig. 6 is a front view of the fastening system of Fig. 1 showing a first step of unfastening the system; [and]

Fig. 7 is a front view of the fastening system of Fig. 1 showing a second step of unfastening the system;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of a diaper including the fastening system of the invention;

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of a training pant including the fastening system of the invention;

Fig. 10 is an upside-down perspective view of a feminine hygiene product including the fastening system of the invention;

Fig. 11 is a perspective view of an incontinence product including the fastening system of the invention;

Fig. 12 is a perspective view of a swimwear garment including the fastening system of the invention; and

Fig. 13 is a perspective view of a medical garment including the fastening system of the invention.

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At page 6, lines 5-8:

This fastening system is particularly suitable for use on disposable absorbent articles. Examples of such suitable articles include diapers (Fig. 8), training pants (Fig. 9), feminine hygiene products (Fig. 10), incontinence products (Fig. 11), swimwear (Fig. 12), other personal care or health care garments, including medical garments (Fig. 13), or the like.